

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire having a framework of a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead portions with the crown portion of said carcass reinforced with a belt layer containing at least two plies, wherein at least one ply of said belt layer is formed by embedding in rubber a metallic cord obtained by shaping a bundle prepared by paralleling a plurality of metallic wires having substantially circular sections in an unstranded state with a binder of a polymeric material having a melting point of 50°C to 200°C, whereby said binder melts during the curing of the molded tire to provide a clearance between the metallic wires for the penetration of the rubber into said clearance.
2. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire having a framework of a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead portions with the crown portion of said carcass reinforced with a belt layer containing a plurality of plies, wherein at least one ply of said carcass is formed by embedding in rubber a metallic cord obtained by shaping a bundle prepared by paralleling a plurality of metallic wires having substantially circular sections in an unstranded state with a binder of a polymeric material having a melting point of 50°C to 200°C, whereby said binder melts during the curing of the molded tire to provide a clearance between the metallic wires for the penetration of the rubber into said clearance.
3. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the polymeric material is low-density polyethylene polypropylene, or medium-density polyethylene.
4. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire of claim 2, wherein the polymeric material is low-density polyethylene polypropylene, or medium-density polyethylene.
5. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the binder circumscribes the metallic wires to form the metallic cord.
6. (New) A The pneumatic tire of claim 2, wherein the binder circumscribes the metallic wires to form the metallic cord.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~metallic cord for reinforcing a pneumatic tire~~ according to claim 1, wherein said metallic wires are 0.15 to 0.3 mm in diameter.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 1, wherein the wires have different shapes and different pitch phases.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 1, wherein the wires have different circular, elliptic, or flat oval sectional shapes.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 1, wherein the diameter of the metallic wires are 0.15 to 0.40 mm.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~metallic cord for reinforcing a pneumatic tire~~ according to claim 1, wherein said binder is a cord, a tape or a string.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 5, wherein the binder is in the shape of a tape having a width of 5 to 20 mm.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 5, wherein the binder is spirally wrapped around the wires in the longitudinal direction.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~metallic cord for reinforcing a pneumatic tire~~ according to claim 2, wherein said metallic wires are 0.15 to 0.3 mm in diameter.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 2, wherein the wires have different shapes and different pitch phases.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 2, wherein the wires have circular, elliptic, or flat oval sectional shapes.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 2, wherein the diameter of the metallic wires are 0.15 to 0.40 mm.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~metallic cord for reinforcing a pneumatic tire~~ according to claim 2, wherein said binder is a cord, a tape or a string.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 6, wherein the binder is in the shape of a tape having a width of 5 to 20 mm.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord pneumatic tire~~ of claim 16, wherein the binder is spirally wrapped around the wires in the longitudinal direction.